

Appl. No. 10/764,587
Amendment dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Figure 10. This sheet of Figure 10 and replaces the original sheet of Figure 10.

Attachment: one (1) replacement sheet

REMARKS

In the October 20, 2004 Office Action, all of claims 1-20 stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections are made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the October 20, 2004 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 20 as presented above. Claims 9 and 18 have also been amended to correct typographical errors. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending, with claims 1 and 12 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Drawings

Applicant has found a typographical error in Figure 10 upon review of the drawings. More specifically, the reference number for the housing unit was incorrectly typed as "10," where it should have been "110." Accordingly, Applicant wishes to amend Figure 10 to correct the typographical error. Applicant believes that the drawings comply with 37 CFR §1.83(a) after this amendment to Figure 10. Approval of the amendment to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Specification

Applicant has found typographical errors in the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification as presented above. Applicant believes that the specification is now correct and complies with 37 CFR §1.71 and 37 CFR §1.75(d)(1).

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056776 to Sugawara ("Sugawara patent") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0146325 to Kitajima ("Kitajima patent"). Claims 9-11 and 18-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the Sugawara patent in view of the Kitajima patent and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0146324 to Yeh ("Yeh patent"). In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 12 as presented above. Applicants believe that the prior art of record does not anticipate or suggest the arrangements of claims 1 and 12 as now amended.

More specifically, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that the first lid and the second lid are both coupled to the housing unit *detachably and reattachably*. In other words, the reel unit of claims 1 and 12 must have *two separate lids that are detachably and reattachably coupled to the housing unit*, with the first lid interposing the master gear with the housing unit. Applicants believe that the Sugawara patent and the Kitajima patent do not disclose or suggest the arrangements of claims 1 and 12 as now amended.

Regarding the Sugawara patent, Applicants believe that it does not show the first and second lids that are detachably and reattachably coupled to the housing unit. The Office Action asserts that the reel body 2a corresponds to the first lid, and that the lid member 2d corresponds to the second lid. Clearly, the reel body 2a is *not* detachably and reattachably coupled to the housing unit of the reel unit, which is clearly contrary to the requirements of claims 1 and 12 as now amended. Thus, Applicants believe that the Sugawara patent does not disclose or suggest the arrangements of claims 1 and 12.

Regarding the Kitajima patent, it has been cited in the Office Action to show the second lid made of synthetic resin. The Kitajima patent clearly does not show the first and second lids of claims 1 and 12, since as seen in Figure 3 in the Kitajima patent, the lid member 2b is integrally formed with the housing unit of the reel unit. This is clearly contrary to the requirements of claims 1 and 12 as now amended. Thus, Applicants believe that the Kitajima patent does not disclose or suggest the arrangements of claims 1 and 12 either singularly or in combination with the Sugawara patent.

Regarding the Yeh patent, it has been cited in the Office Action to show the through hole formed in the housing unit. The Yeh patent clearly does not show the first and second lids of claims 1 and 12, because the Yeh patent shows no lids. Even assuming *arguendo* that the body casing halves 14 and 15 could be construed as lid members, the body casing halves 14 and 15 are attached to sides of the housing unit 10 without either of the body casing halves 14 and 15 interposing the master gear with the housing unit, as seen in Figure 1. This is clearly contrary to the requirement of the first lid as recited in claims 1 and 12. Thus, Applicants believe that the Yeh patent does not disclose or suggest the arrangements of claims 1 and 12 either singularly or in combination with the Sugawara patent and the Kitajima patent.

In view of the above amendments and the comments, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent

claims 1 and 12, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-11 and 13-20 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 1 and 12, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 12, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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